

HAWAII HISTORY IN BRIEF

(Continued from Page Nineteen.)

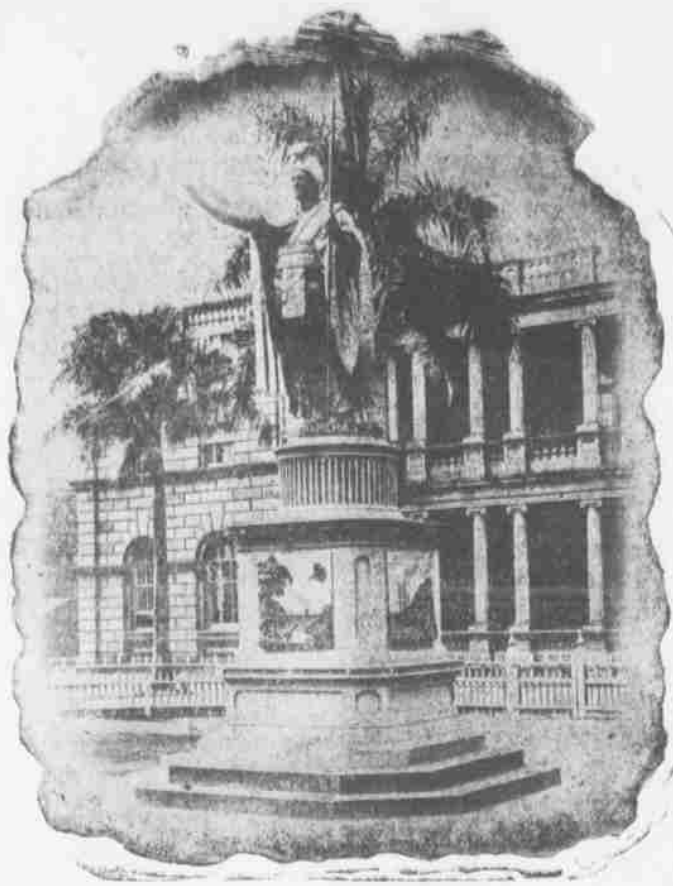
bears a startling resemblance to that of the Greeks at the time of the Trojan war. An illustration of this is shown in the picture of the statue of King Kamehameha.

These and other evidences point to strange and romantic long voyages in the wide canoes of the prehistoric period—voyages which seem to far surpass the daring of the galleons of Columbus. These voyages are told of in Hawaiian song and story and traditions tell of much movement throughout Polynesia three or four centuries before Columbus turned his galleons' prow into an unknown sea. The mystery of the accomplishment of these long voyages in the rude canoes of the period is a fascinating one. Astronomers are spoken of as guides. Hawaiians and Tahitians exchanged visits over 1,000 miles or more, in canoes.

In the most ancient times known, there were three classes of people—the chiefs, or nobility, the priests (including doctors) and the common people, variously graded according to dignity of occupation. There were also slaves, probably prisoners of war. Possession and control of land and water supply appear to have been a basis of civil polity and often a cause of civil war. The weapons of warfare were spears, daggers and clubs, and battles were generally open combats, without ambush or much strategy. There was generally no mercy shown to the vanquished, but cannibalism was regarded with horror and detestation.

At this stage of Hawaiian civilization, the marriage tie was loose, polygamy was practiced and infanticide was so general that two-thirds of all the children born are said to have been destroyed by their parents. A rude religion, based upon worship of the powers of nature and sustaining many deities and sorcerers, controlled all classes and to the present day the discoveries of the ancient temples of worship continue. Human sacrifices were frequent. In the arts and manufactures and in agriculture there was considerable development. Cooking was usually in an underground oven, with heated stones, just as it is done today for a lulu, or native feast. There were no distilled or fermented liquors, but a drink known as awa (tutti wanda), was used by the upper classes. Its effects are narcotic. It is little used today.

Much warfare occurred during the years following the death of Captain Cook. Various white visitors came, and some remained. The wars ended



STATUE OF KAMEHAMEHA THE GREAT, HONOLULU.

with the establishment of the rule of Kamehameha I over the entire group. In his final battles he had sixteen white men, and several cannons, in his service. His ascendancy was the beginning of a new era.

Kamehameha made himself an absolute ruler, but was a wise one. He had some foreign aids and counselors. About 1800 the art of distilling was introduced by some Botany Bay convicts. The effects of strong liquor on the natives was disastrous. Most of the chiefs had stills and rum was also imported. The king at first indulged to excess but finally became a total abstainer. He died in 1819, 82 years of age. He had led his people to readiness for civilization and Christianity.

In 1820 the first American missionaries landed. They found a people already abandoning their own gods and superstitions and very receptive to Christianity and conversions were quick. The new arrivals soon mastered the Hawaiian language and reduced it for the first time to writing. The acceptance of Christianity by the Hawaiian race was rapid beyond all precedent.

From this time on the history of the Hawaiian people is the story of their conversion to Christianity and

education in Christian morals and of the evolution of a constitutional government. Very powerful adverse influences were many of the traders, whalers and beachcomers who lived lives of vice and dissipation and spread ruin and disease among the island people. At times the ruling monarch was a man or woman of high character and at other times the head of the government led with a very unfortunate example. But the better forces gradually triumphed and a civilized code of laws was applied, a legislature and ministry with checks on the royal power were established and annexation to the United States found the Hawaiian a people ripe with political experience and ready for the universal manhood suffrage which the American government immediately granted. Here, again, attention may be called to the difference between Hawaii and the "insular possessions." The citizens of Hawaii are American citizens with full right of suffrage.

The struggling island government during the 19th century had various difficulties with foreign consuls and visitors, especially the French and British. In 1842 Secretary of State Daniel Webster recognized the islands' independence and declared it to be

the sense of the United States government that it should be respected. On February 20, 1843, the islands were ceded to Great Britain, under protest, as a result of demands made by Lord Paulet, of the frigate Caryatid, who threatened to seize the capital. The cession did not last any longer than July, when the British Flag-ship Dublin arrived with Admiral Thomas in command. There were no cables nor swift mails in those days and Thomas acted on his own responsibility. He refused to accept the cession and had the Hawaiian flag restored at public ceremonies held on the spot now known as Thomas square, ever since preserved as a public park and named after the Admiral. From a saying of the King on this occasion the Hawaiian nation obtained its national motto, inscribed on all coins and seals: "The life of the land is perpetuated by righteousness." The British government approved the course of Admiral Thomas.

Annexation to the United States was proposed in 1853 and there was much agitation in its favor for a couple of years, among foreign residents. The King, Kamehameha III, favored it as a refuge from impending dangers to the island nation. The demands of foreign nations, the conspiracies at home and the plans of filibusters abroad made the existence of the government precarious. Negotiations were had with the American minister and it was reported that armed filibusters were coming from California to force annexation. The United States naval forces present joined those of other powers in offers to support the government against any such expedition. The filibusters never appeared, the agitation was dropped and the king issued a proclamation declaring his independence more firmly established than ever.

Kalakaua was the last of the 1st and monarchs to have an extended reign, and the last one before Queen Liliuokalani, during whose brief rulership the monarchy ended. He reigned for about 17 years and the period of his rulership was marked by several very important events. The conclusion of the reciprocity treaty with the United States in 1875 made possible the great growth of the sugar industry. Kalakaua visited the United States in 1874 and in 1881 he set out on a tour of the world, being received with much honor in all countries and generally making a favorable impression. In 1890 he went to California on board the U. S. cruiser Charleston and in January, 1891, he died in San Francisco. His remains were brought back by the Charleston. Liliuokalani was at once proclaimed queen and began the short and turbulent reign that ended in overthrow of the monarchy, establishment of a Republic of Hawaii, and finally annexation of Hawaii to the United States.

THE PLIGHT OF HAWAII

(Bridgeport, Conn., Telegram.)

The friends of Hawaiian development were perhaps ill-advised in presenting their request for a temporary abrogation of the alien contract labor law just before a presidential election. The subject was obviously one upon which neither party dared lay a finger under present conditions. That the proposed measure obtained 19 affirmative votes is sufficiently wonderful.

The request in itself was remarkably modest. Hawaii merely asked to be allowed a free hand for the space of six years in order that she might be able to import white labor of the kind she needs. She finds it impossible to attract desirable white inhabitants to her shores unless she is in a position to guarantee them work in advance. The country is too far distant from labor centres and Europeans in general are too ignorant of its prospects and resources to make the bringing of white men into such a stronghold of the dark races an easy task. Under present restrictions Hawaii is being populated with Chinese and Japanese who although they may be congenial to the natives are not likely to assimilate with the white elements of the population. The presence of 70,000 Japanese in the islands is regarded with alarm by conservative citizens who believe that the country has already too great an infusion of dark blood for its prosperity. The large American immigration which was expected to follow annexation to the United States has failed to assert itself. At the same time American domination has rendered Hawaii a less promising field of enterprise for other white nations. The planters have grasped the economic truth that capable white labor is the cheapest in the end wherever the climate makes it possible for it to live. They are willing to pay high wages for the type of labor they consider necessary and are ready to furnish guarantees that they will do nothing which could by any possibility reflect unfavorably upon the economic situation in the United States. They also pledge themselves to observe the time limit if Congress will listen to their prayers.

The refusal was probably expected; but those who received it must have been inclined to question their gains under American rule. In the days of Hawaiian independence they might have developed the country into one in

which white influence preponderated and its ultimate civilization would have been a thing of certainty. As matters now stand, its chances of improvement seem to be exceedingly remote.

THE RUSSIAN PRISONS ARE BADLY CROWDED.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 9.—The Deputies of the first Duma who were tardily condemned for the disloyal manifesto to the nation issue at Vyborg and condemned to loss of liberty, will be allowed to undergo their term of imprisonment about the middle of May.

From various districts of Russia come complaints that the prison accommodation is utterly insufficient to satisfy the increasing demand.

The Minister of Ways and Communications is giving practical recognition to the insecure state of life and property. He has authorized the chiefs of the various railway departments to spend \$500 each in the purchase of bulletproof coats of mail and the chiefs of section \$400 each.

Roy L. Marston and wife of Skowhegan have gone on an extended trip to the Pacific Coast and Honolulu. Mr. Marston is to inspect the government forests in the Hawaiian Islands, and on the return journey he will probably go to the state of Sonora in Mexico to examine a tract of 400,000 acres.—Industrial Journal, Bangor, Me.

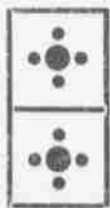
LONDON, May 9.—Lady Lowther, wife of the new British Ambassador at Berlin, is one of the most attractive of the many American women who have married diplomats. Being popular as well, she will be welcomed not only by her compatriots, but also by a large circle of English friends this season, which she intends to spend in London. She was Alice Blight of Philadelphia when she captured Sir Gerald, who was then first secretary to the British Embassy at Washington. His advancement has been rapid.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE NAVY

The officers and men of the Atlantic Fleet were most pleasantly surprised upon their arrival in Honolulu—they had been looking forward to it, but hardly hoped to be able to obtain it until they reached the Orient. The glad tidings of course spread from ship to ship that Tansan could be obtained in Hawaii nel. Ring up 171 and order. Order not because the warships on the Pacific Ocean use it, but because it is the most delicious mineral water in the world.

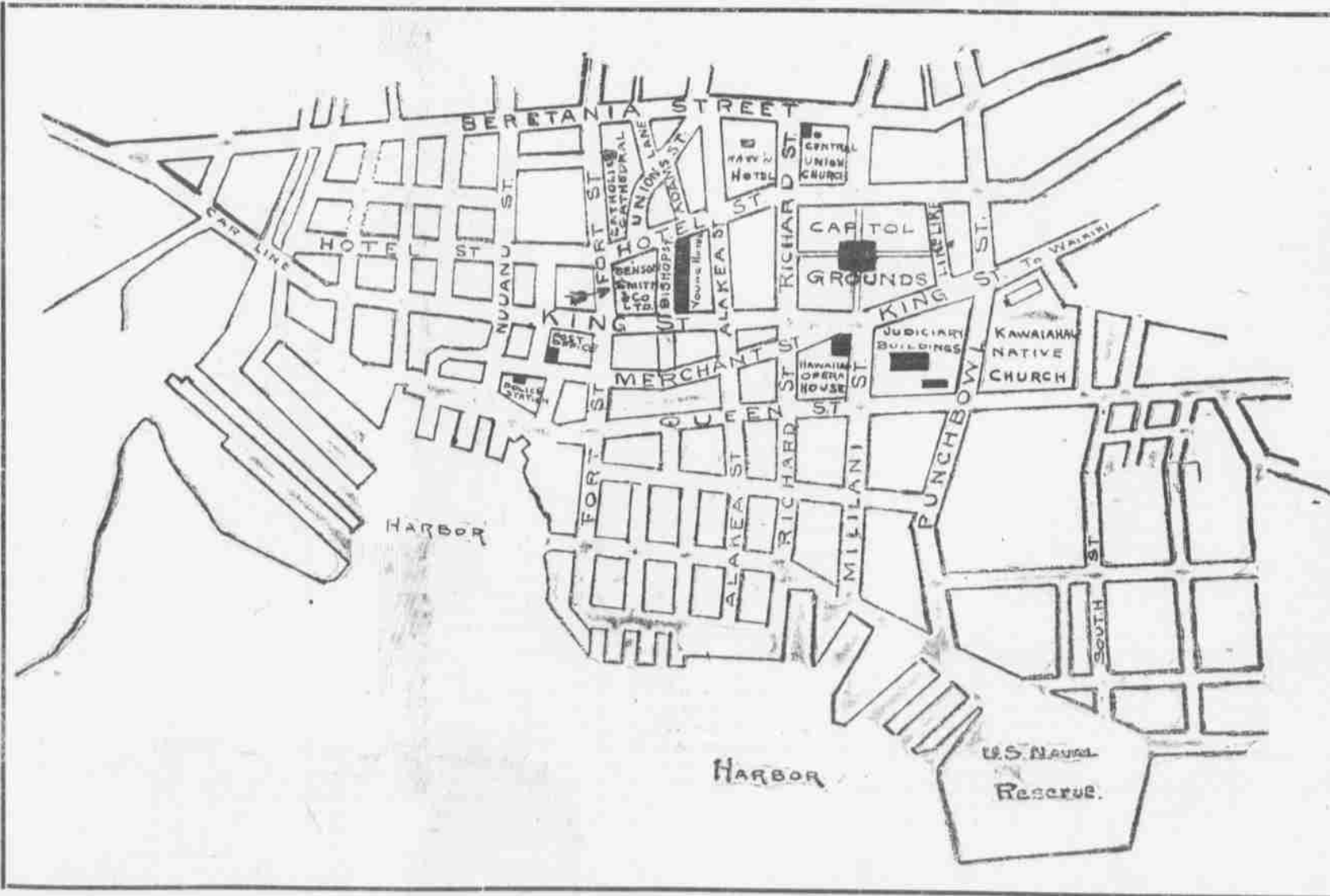
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